

Message Text

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TO USMISSION USBERLIN IMMEDIATE

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S E C R E T STATE 092319

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FOLLOWING REPEAT BONN 6882 ACTION SECSTATE DTD 21 APR

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, WB, GW, US, UR, UK, FR

SUBJECT: BERLIN: SOVIET DEMARCHE ON MILITARY PATROLS

REFS: (A) STATE 87758 (NOTAL); (B) STATE 86351 (NOTAL)

1. IN APRIL 21 MEETING, BONN GROUP REACHED AD REF

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AGREEMENT ON THE TEXT OF AN ALLIED REPLY TO THE SOVIET

DEMARCHE ON ALLIED MILITARY PATROLS IN EAST BERLIN.

COMMENTS ON THE TEXT FOLLOW SEPTTEL.

BEGIN TEXT

A. THE BLANK GOVERNMENT HAS STUDIED THE SOVIET

STATEMENT OF 15 APRIL 1977 CONCERNING THE MATTER OF ENTRY INTO THE EASTERN SECTOR OF BERLIN BY ALLIED MILITARY VEHICLES.

B. THE SOVIET STATEMENT REFERS TO BLANK MILITARY POLICE VEHICLES PERFORMING POLICE PATROLS IN THE EASTERN SECTOR OF BERLIN. WHAT IS IN FACT AT ISSUE IS THAT FREE MOVEMENT OF BLANK MILITARY PERSONNEL ON DUTY IN GREATER BERLIN WHICH HAS BEEN THE PRACTICE SINCE 1945.

C. IN THE QUADRIpartite AGREEMENT OF 3 SEPTEMBER 1971, THE FOUR POWERS UNDERTOOK MUTUALLY TO RESPECT THEIR INDIVIDUAL AND JOINT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES AND CONFIRMED THAT THESE REMAINED UNCHANGED. THE FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT OF MILITARY PERSONNEL OF THE FOUR POWERS ON OR OFF DUTY THROUGHOUT GREATER BERLIN IS IN EXERCISE OF THOSE RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES AND IS AN ELEMENT OF THE EXISTING SITUATION WHICH, UNDER THE TERMS OF THE QUADRIpartite AGREEMENT, CANNOT BE UNILATERALLY CHANGED.

D. THE QUADRIpartite DECLARATION OF 9 NOVEMBER 1972 ALSO EXPLICITLY STATED THAT THE "RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE FOUR POWERS AND THE CORRESPONDING RELATED QUADRIpartite AGREEMENTS, DECISIONS AND PRACTICES" WOULD NOT BE AFFECTED. AS INDICATED ABOVE, THE MOVEMENT OF MILITARY PERSONNEL OF THE FOUR POWERS
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THROUGHOUT GREATER BERLIN IS ONE OF THOSE PRACTICES.

E. ANY UNILATERAL ATTEMPT TO PUT IN QUESTION THE EXERCISE OF QUADRIpartite RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES IN BERLIN WOULD IN THE VIEW OF THE BLANK GOVERNMENT UNDERMINE THE QUADRIpartite AGREEMENT. THE STABILITY FLOWING FROM THE QUADRIpartite AGREEMENT ON BERLIN DURING THE PAST FIVE YEARS HAS SERVED THE CAUSE OF PEACE THROUGHOUT EUROPE. IT WOULD THEREFORE BE DANGEROUS TO RAISE ISSUES IN BERLIN WHICH COULD AFFECT THE DELICATE BALANCE WHICH HAS BEEN ACHIEVED THERE AND THE SOVIET DEMARCHE MUST PUT IN DOUBT THE WILLINGNESS OF THE SOVIET UNION TO CONTINUE THE POLICY OF DETENTE OF WHICH THE QUADRIpartite AGREEMENT IS A BASIC ELEMENT. ANY QUESTIONING OF THE LONG-STANDING QUADRIpartite AGREEMENTS, DECISIONS AND PRACTICES IN BERLIN, INCLUDING TOURS BY MILITARY VEHICLES OF THE THREE POWERS IN THE EASTERN SECTOR OF BERLIN, MUST THEREFORE HAVE DISTURBING EFFECTS ON THE OVERALL

SITUATION, WHICH WOULD BE IN THE INTEREST OF NEITHER SIDE.

F. THE BLANK GOVERNMENT ACCEPTS THE WISH OF THE SOVIET SIDE THAT THE SOVIET DEMARCHE SHOULD NOT BE MADE A MATTER OF PUBLIC DISCUSSION. BUT THE SOVIET SIDE SHOULD BE AWARE THAT THE BLANK GOVERNMENT IS DETERMINED TO MAINTAIN QUADRIpartite RIGHTS OF FREE MOVEMENT THROUGHOUT BERLIN AND IS, THEREFORE, UNABLE TO ACCEPT THE CONTENT OF THE SOVIET NOTE OF 15 APRIL.

END TEXT

2. WITH REGARD TO THE LEVEL OF DELIVERY OF REPLY, FRENCH REP (DE BOISSIEU) SAID THAT THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR HAD SOUGHT TO SEE FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER TO DELIVER THE DEMARCHE TO HIM AND DELIVERED IT TO SECRET

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DE LABOULAYE SINCE DE GUIRINGAUD WAS NOT AVAILABLE. DE BOISSIEU EXPECTS, THEREFORE, THAT FOREIGN MINISTER WILL DELIVER REPLY IF HE IS IN PARIS WHEN REPLY IS TO BE MADE. UK REP (EYERS) SAID THAT SOVIET AMBASSADOR IN LONDON APPARENTLY MADE NO ATTEMPT TO SEE FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN. CONSEQUENTLY, HE BELIEVES THAT FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN WILL BE RELUCTANT TO DELIVER REPLY TO SOVIET AMBASSADOR SINCE SOVIET MINISTER MADE DEMARCHE TO HIBBERT BUT WILL PROBABLY PREFER TO HAVE THE REPLY MADE BY HIBBERT TO THE MINISTER. WE TOLD EYERS THAT WE WOULD INQUIRE WHETHER DEPARTMENT WISHED TO EXPRESS A WISH THAT ALL THREE REPLIES BE MADE AT SECSTATE LEVEL.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: ANY EXPRESSION OF DEPARTMENT'S PREFERENCE AS TO LEVEL OF DELIVERY IN LONDON, IF DEPARTMENT APPROVES TEXT, WOULD BE APPRECIATED. STOESSEL UNQTE VANCE

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